



OFFICES OF THE GOVERNORS

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI

April 28, 2006

The Honorable Mike Thompson
United States House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

We are writing this letter in support of the dedicated efforts by members of the Oregon and California Congressional Delegations to address the emergency that will face our coastal communities as a result of anticipated restrictions on the ocean salmon fishing season. Your leadership on this critical issue is greatly appreciated.

As you are well aware, Klamath River Basin Chinook salmon are a vital component of California and Oregon's natural resources and provide significant aesthetic, recreational, commercial and economic benefits to our state and its people. In addition, Klamath River salmon are highly valued for cultural, subsistence and economic reasons by Native American tribes in the Klamath River Basin.

As a result of the predicted low abundance of Klamath River salmon, the National Marine Fisheries Service is considering significant closures to the 2006 commercial and recreational ocean salmon fisheries from Cape Falcon, Oregon, to Point Sur, California. The commercial salmon fishery has been closed for six weeks and is not expected to reopen this year in coastal waters south of Florence, Oregon. North of Florence to Cape Falcon, the season will likely reopen in June, July and August, but for a very limited number of days, accompanied by significant limitations on the number of fish that may be caught. On Oregon's Southern Coast, the recreational fishery will likely open only from mid-May until July 4, and from September 1 through 6, 2006.

These fishing limits will have profound impacts on many communities, including significant increases in unemployment, human suffering, financial losses and other stark economic impacts along the Oregon and California coasts. We have each directed the agencies under our authority to work with federal agencies to determine the full range of economic impacts of the proposed salmon season closure.

While it is certainly critical to secure immediate financial assistance for our coastal communities, we must also address the long-term management of the Klamath River Basin. The challenges in the Klamath River Basin are significant and will require a consistent and coordinated effort to protect this region's natural resources and provide relief to industries, communities and tribes that depend upon them. Therefore, we are

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calling on our agencies to meet and recommend long-term strategies toward proper management of the Klamath River Basin. We look forward to working with you toward these goals.

Thank you for your support of our coastal communities and your leadership during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor of California



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor of Oregon

TRK:mcjb
cc: Congressional Delegation